In the Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). An implantable fastener for securing an object relative to a body tissue, comprising:

a first section including a first surface and further including an extension member extending from said first surface, and

a second section including a second surface, said second surface opposing said first surface and being configured for receiving the extension member, the first and second sections being bondable together with the application of an energy source;

said first surface being configured to abut the object and said second surface being configured to abut the object,

wherein the object extends through the fastener substantially unobstructed.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented). The fastener according to claim 1, wherein the object is interposed between the first and second sections.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented). The fastener according to claim 2, wherein the first and second sections are bonded together to secure the object.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended). The fastener according to claim 1, wherein the first section includes a pair of parallel channels for carrying a first portion of the object in a first of the pair of the parallel channels and for carrying a second portion of the object in a second of the pair of the parallel channels.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented). The fastener according to claim 4, wherein the extension member is interposed between the pair of parallel channels.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended). The fastener according to claim [[5]] 1, wherein the second section includes a channel configured for receiving the extension member.

Claim 7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended). The fastener according to claim [[7]] 6, wherein the extension member is positioned within the channel, such that the object is interposed between the first and second sections.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn). The fastener according to claim 1, wherein the first section comprises a pair of parallel extension members.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn). The fastener according to claim 9, wherein the second section includes a pair of parallel channels configured for receiving the parallel extension members.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn). The fastener according to claim 10, wherein the object is interposed between the parallel extension members.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn). The fastener according to claim 11 wherein the parallel extension members are positioned within the parallel channels, such that the object is interposed between the first and second sections.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn). The fastener according to claim 1, wherein the extension member is a center post.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn). The fastener according to claim 13, wherein the second section includes a flange defining a passage configured for receiving the center post.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn). The fastener according to claim 14, wherein an exterior surface of the center post and an interior surface of the passage are textured.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn). The fastener according to claim 15, wherein the object is wrapped around the center post.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn). The fastener according to claim 16, wherein the center post is positioned within the passage, such that the object is interposed between the center post and an interior surface of the passage.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented). The fastener according to claim 1, wherein at least a portion of at least one of the first and second sections contacting the other of the first and second sections is textured.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented). The fastener according to claim 1, wherein the first and second sections are interconnected.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented). The fastener according to claim 1, wherein the fastener is made of a biodegradable material.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented). The fastener according to claim 1, wherein the fastener is made of a heat shrink material.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented). The fastener according to claim 1, wherein the fastener includes viable cells.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended). The fastener according to claim 1, wherein the fastener includes pharmaceutical agents, at least one of the pharmaceutical agent is osteoinductive.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented). The fastener according to claim 1, wherein the energy source is selected from the group consisting of radio frequency energy, laser energy, microwave energy, ultrasound energy, contact heating energy, and combinations thereof.

Claims 25-48 (Canceled).

Claim 49 (Currently Amended). The fastener according to claim 1, wherein said first surface and said second surface are configured to sandwich the ~~suture~~ object.

Claim 50 (Previously Presented). The fastener according to claim 1, wherein:

said first section has two channels formed therein, said channels being disposed opposingly about and immediately adjacent to said extension member; and

said second section is configured to seat within said channels of said first section.

Claim 51 (Currently Amended). The fastener according to claim 1, wherein:

said extension member divides said first surface into two first subsurfaces ~~a first first-surface subsurface and a second first-surface subsurface~~,

a channel divides said second surface into two second subsurfaces ~~a first second-surface subsurface and a second second-surface subsurface~~,

one of said first ~~first-surface~~ subsurfaces is configured to align with one of said second ~~first second-surface~~ subsurfaces when said first section is bonded to said second section; and

the other of said ~~second first-surface~~ first subsurfaces is configured to align with the other of said second ~~second-surface~~ subsurfaces when said first section is bonded to said second section.

Claim 52 (Currently Amended). The fastener according to claim 51, further comprising a suture being disposed between at least one of said first ~~first-surface subspace~~ subsurfaces and at least one of said second subsurfaces ~~first second-surface subspace and said second first-surface subspace and said second second-surface subspace~~.

Claim 53 (Previously Presented). The fastener according to claim 1, wherein said object is elongated.

Claim 54 (Previously Presented). The fastener according to claim 1, wherein said object is a suture.

Claim 55 (Previously Presented). The fastener according to claim 1, wherein said object is body tissue.

Claim 56 (Previously presented). The fastener according to claim 55, wherein said body tissue is selected from the group consisting of soft tissue, tendon, ligament, and bone.

Claim 57 (Currently Amended). The fastener according to claim [[55]] 1, wherein said object is metallic.

Claim 58 (New). The fastener according to claim 1, wherein said extension member is compressible during the application of the energy source to move said first surface and said second surface closer to each other.

Claim 59 (New). The fastener according to claim 1, wherein said extension member is compressible with the application of the energy source to a height about equal to a thickness of the object to be secured.

Claim 60 (New). The fastener according to claim 1, wherein said extension member is bonded to said second surface and has been compressed to a height about equal to a thickness of the object to be secured.

Claim 61 (New). The fastener according to claim 1, wherein said fastener is made of a biocompatible material.

Claim 62 (New). The fastener according to claim 1, wherein said fastener is rigid when the energy source is not being applied.

Claim 63 (New). The fastener according to claim 62, wherein the object is rigid.

Claim 64 (New). The fastener according to claim 1, wherein said extension member is bondable to said second surface with the application of the energy source.

Claim 65 (New). The fastener according to claim 1, wherein said first section has a top surface opposing said first surface, said top surface being configured to contact the energy source.

Claim 66 (New). The fastener according to claim 64, wherein the energy source is an ultrasonic end effector.

Claim 67 (New). The fastener according to claim 65, wherein said second section has a bottom surface opposing said second surface, said bottom surface being configured to contact an anvil when said top surface is contacting the energy source.

Claim 68 (New). The fastener according to claim 1, wherein said extension member is fin shaped.

Claim 69 (New). The fastener according to claim 63, wherein said object is metallic.

Claim 70 (New). The fastener according to claim 1, wherein the object extends through the fastener in a substantially linear fashion.

Claim 71 (New). An implantable fastener for securing an object relative to body tissue, comprising:

a first section including a first surface and an extension member extending from the first surface; and

a second section including a second surface, the second surface opposing the first surface and configured for receiving the extension member, the first and second sections bondable together with the application of an energy source to secure the object to the fastener

wherein the first surface and the second surface move closer to each other with the application of the energy source to thereby secure the object to the fastener, and

wherein the object extends through the retainer substantially unobstructed.

Claim 72. (New) The fastener according to claim 71, wherein ultrasonic energy bonds the first and second surfaces together to thereby secure the object to the fastener.

Claim 73. (New) The fastener according to claim 72, wherein the object extends through the fastener in a substantially linear fashion.